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From the President - A Year in Review

I'm not sure what all of you do for annual reviews in your own jobs, but here in Graduate Studies, we are lucky enough to do some goal-setting and soul-searching to find out what we have been doing during the past year, what we are doing now and if there are things we want to do in the future. All these things are supposed to fit into our department's mission.

So, I wonder what would happen if we all thought about all the activities we do all year long as members of UNOPA that help us see who we are and how we fulfill UNOPA's mission. Are you thinking about UNOPA as a golden opportunity or a privilege? Do you think about all of the valuable things that we do? I know that I sure do. I have been thinking about what UNOPA members have done this year that helps us fulfill our mission and the list is considerable:

- July – Bunco for the summer social
- July – NAEOP (national organization)
- July – May, Update the website and load more things into the digital commons
- August – November and once in April – parking lot duty with friends (for me that is a fun time!)
- September – Workshop for professional development
- September – May, board meetings (8-two were cancelled)
- September – May, general meetings (9) that included award luncheons, wonderful hospitality including very creative decorations, delicious food and fun give-aways; fabulous guest speakers and entertainment
- September – May, Secret friends and collection of labels and box tops for education
- October – NEOPA (state organization) fall workshop
- April – NEOPA (state organization) spring conference
- February and April – Brown bag lunches for professional development
- Meetings with committees
- and more!

What would someone think if we all had these items on our resumes? That we were productive, creative, and innovative? I think that they would think of us as extremely valuable!

I am so happy that we really do fulfill our mission of providing professional development for our members in everything that we do. Thanks to you all.

Jane

More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/06pn>



Jane Schneider

March 10 General Meeting

At our March general meeting, our guest speaker was Susan Cook with the Homestead National Monument. Ms. Cook is a Ranger at the park and gave a history of the Homestead Act and an overview of the Homestead National Monument.

The website description of the Homestead Act shows you how important the Homestead Act was: "The Homestead Act of 1862 was one of the most significant and enduring events in the westward expansion of the United States. It granted 160 acres of free land to claimants, and allowed nearly any man or woman a "fair chance." Homestead National Monument of America, located in Southeast Nebraska, commemorates this Act and the far-reaching effects it had upon the landscape and people."

Susan shared this quote from Abraham Lincoln: "It is the purpose of our government to elevate the condition of men, to lift artificial burdens from all shoulders and to give everyone an unfettered start and a fair chance in the race of life." President Abraham Lincoln, July 4, 1861.

Susan would love it if we came out for a visit! Park hours, an activities schedule and PDFs of historical information and facts about the park are located at: <http://www.nps.gov/home/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

We had a great time listening to Susan.

Jane

More details at: <http://www.nps.gov/home/index.htm>



Susan Cook from the Homestead National Monument

April 22 Brown Bag Session

Dr. Helen Fagan, Leadership and Diversity Scholar and Practitioner presented a brown bag session on Wednesday, April 22, noon - 1 p.m. at the Nebraska Union.

The title of the presentation was "Who You Are is the Best Part of What YOU Do!"

Helen told us fascinating stories about her life when she came to the U.S. from Iran and talked about how her history and personal experiences drove her to seek an education and helped her find her life's work regarding cultural diversity.

We were joined by UAAD members and others from the campus and there were many favorable comments at the conclusion of Helen's presentation.

It was a wonderful learning experience for me, and I hope to use what I have learned going forward. I believe that Helen will make her presentation available to us electronically and I'll share it with you.

Jane

More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/x4q2>



Dr. Helen Fagan

May 12 General Meeting and Installation

Watch for a reservation form for the May 12 general meeting and installation of our new officers. It will be held at the Jackie Gaughan Multicultural Center, Room 212, 11:45 a.m.

The Nominating Committee did a great job this year and just announced our new officers for 2015-2016:

Tricia Liedle, President-elect
Alycia Libolt, Treasurer
Judy Anderson, Recording Secretary
Marsha Yelden, Corresponding Secretary

Congratulations to all newly elected officers, I know you will all do a fantastic job.

There are a number of committee director positions left to fill on the UNOPA Executive Board. If you would like to help as a Director or be a supporting member of one of the committees please contact Roddy Spangler at 472-3989 or rspangler2@unl.edu

Installation is always a fun celebration and is a good way to end the year. I hope to see you there!

Jane

More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/ixfu>

Rose Frolik and Past Presidents Award Luncheon

On April 14, UNOPA hosted the Rose Frolik Award luncheon with presentation of the 2015 Rose Frolik Award and recognition of past presidents and retirees.

Mari Greer, Administrative Coordinator in the Office of Research and Economic Development was the recipient of this year's Rose Frolik Award. Mari was presented with a certificate, a plaque, one-year membership in UNOPA, a \$600 cash award and also received the commemorative Rose Frolik necklace, all of which Sandy Lineberry presented to Mari.

Other nominees were Andrea Peterson, Administrative Tech 1 in the College of Arts and Sciences Academic and Career Advising Center; Marcy Tintera, Staff Assistant in the College of Law; and Debra Predmore, Accounting Associate from the Bureau of Sociological Research.

Judges for the award were Rev. Don Coleman, KFOR Radio; Molly Coke from Firespring Marketing Agency; and Ann Usher from Lincoln Public Schools at Irving Middle School.

A few comments made on behalf of Mari's nomination were: Mari leads by example, whether it be while working with colleagues or contributing as an active member of local and national professional organizations. She has been a UNOPA advocate within our unit and helped refresh our leadership team's perspective about the importance of the organization to our staff and our campus. Always provides seamless diplomacy in a way that is unnoticeable to the average person. Finally, she is viewed as "everyone's friend", and it is through that friendship that so many individuals are encouraged to participate in and contribute to UNOPA and the University.

- Tricia Liedle

More details at: <http://go.unl.edu/h26f>



Top: Mari Greer and Sandy Lineberry. Below: Mari Greer, Deb Predmore, Andrea Peterson & Marcy Tintera